

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 05378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, RO, IT, PFOR

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION - ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO

ITALY, ION MARGINEANU

REF : ROME 14853

1. MARGINEANU WAS BORN IN CLUJ IN 1928, EDUCATED AT THE UNIVERSITY THERE AND IN BUCHAREST (LAW AND ECONOMICS) AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN ROMANIAN JOURNALISM SINCE 1945. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS AGERPRES CORRESPONDENT IN ROME (AND WILL BE HAPPY TO RETURN THERE) AND AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF ONE OF ROMANIA'S TWO CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS, ROMANIA LIBERA. SINCE APRIL 1970 HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ROMANIA'S PRESS AGENCY, AGERPRES. DURING THE LATTER PART OF HIS TENURE AT AGERPRES, HE ALSO SERVED AS DE FACTO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF ROMANIA'S NEWS JOURNAL, LUMEA, AN INDICATION OF HIS INFLUENCE AND TRUSTWORTHINESS. HE HAS ALSO FREQUENTLY CONTRIBUTED SIGNED ARTICLES ON ROMANIAN FOREIGN POLICY TO A VARIETY OF JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS. RECENTLY HE HAS PENNED SEVERAL ATTACKS ON RADIO FREE EUROPE IN CONNECTION WITH ROMANIA'S ON-GOING ANTI-RFE CAMPAIGN.

2. HE IS A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE RCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE, A DEPUTY IN THE ROMANIAN PARLIAMENT, THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE ROMANIAN GROUP OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION. MARGINEANU IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN, A SON STUDYING LAW AND A DAUGHTER MAJORING IN FRENCH AND ITALIAN AT BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY. HE HIMSELF SPEAKS FRENCH AND ITALIAN, SOME GERMAN AND A SMATTERING OF

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ENGLISH. MARGINEANU AT FIRST APPEARED SLATED FOR THE

COPENHAGEN POST, BUT THIS WAS INEXPLICABLY CHANGED TO ROME AT THE LAST MOMENT.

3. IN HIS DEALINGS WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL, MARGINEANU HAS BEEN FRIENDLY, BUT NOT PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. HE IS A BIG, THICK-CHESTED MAN WITH A RUDDY COMPLEXION, AN INFECTIOUS SMILE AND LAUGH, AND AN INTENSE RAPID-STYLE OF SPEAKING. AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES HE HAS THE REPUTATION OF A MAN WHO DOES WHAT HE IS TOLD AND EXPECTS OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. AN IMPLEMENTOR, NOT AN INNOVATOR, HE IS SAID BY SOME TO LACK IMAGINATION. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT HIS ASSIGNMENT TO ROME MAY NOT BE A PROMOTION. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN HIS APPARENTLY GENUINE LOVE FOR ITALY AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE, MARGINEANU IS LIKELY TO BE AN AFFECTIVE ENVOY. HE CAN BE COUNTED ON TO CARRY OUT HIS ORDERS FROM BUCHAREST EFFECTIVELY AND WITHOUT QUESTION. VIETS

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